

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 EA-11 NIC-01 EB-11 SCEM-02 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3765

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SA, XF

SUBJECT: AL MEDINA ON UNDERSECRETARY RUSH STATEMENT

REF TEHRAN 2851 T

1. AL MEDINA NEWSPAPER APRIL 26 REPORTS UNDER THREE-COLUM HEADLINE BELOW FOLD " US UNDERSECRETARY SAYS AMERICA WILL NEVER CHANGE ITS PRINCIPLES OR POLICY BY A THREAT OF A CUT- OFF OF ARAB PETROLEUM. AMERICA TRUSTS IN THE ABILITY OF IRAN TO EXCLUDE THIS AREA FROM MATTERS IN DISPUTE." HEADLINE CONTINUED (PURPORTING TO QUOTE UNDERSECRETARY) " WE HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING THE SECURITY OF THE ARAB (SIC) GULF." (ARTICLE BASED ON AP AND Wafa REPORTS).
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EMBASSY ISSUING CLARIFICATION (REFTEL) AND WILL EXPRESS TO FONMINISTRY REGRET AT INACCURATE AND UNHELPFUL REPORTING.

2. STORY THAT FOLLOWS QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM AIRPORT INTERVIEW WITH UNDERSECRETARY, EMPHASIZING THE CLOSENESS OF AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH IRAN BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. RUSH IS QUOTED AS EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE PEOPLES OF THIS AREA INCLUDING SOUTH ASIA COULD SECURE A BETTER LIFE BY MAKING USE OF PEACE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON US INTENTIONS IN RESTORING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE UNDERSECRETARY IS QUOTED AS SAYING AMERICA PRESENTED MANY INITIATIVES IN ATTEMPTING TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. QUOTE IT IS REGRETABLE THAT THE TWO PARTIES DID NOT SO FAR ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM UNQUOTE. THE PAPER ADDS THAT HE ALLUDED FREQUENTLY TO THE NECESSITY OF HOLDING A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

3. PAPER STATES QUOTE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE US INTENDS TO TAKE A NEW ENDEAVOR TO SOLVE THE CRISIS, THE UNDERSECRETARY SAID THAT THE USG ENDEAVORS TO REALIZE THIS GOAL EVERY DAY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

4. PAPER ADDS QUOTE THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES NATURALLY HOPES PEACE AND STABILITY WILL PREVAIL OVER THE GULF REGION. HIS GOVERNMENT MOREOVER WAS CONFIDENT OF IRAN'S CAPACITY -- AS THE STRONGEST RIPARIAN STATE IN THE REGION -- TO SECURE THIS REGION WHICH IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE WORLD ECONOMY BECAUSE OF ITS OIL PRODUCTION AGAINST DISTURBANCES AND CONFLICTS IN THE AREAS OF DISPUTE. HE ADDED THAT AMERICA WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO SUBMIT TO BLACKMAIL BY MEANS OF ANY ARAB THREAT TO CUT OFF PETROLEUM BECAUSE OF THE POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE JEWISH ENTITY. HIS COUNTRY WILL FOLLOW A POLICY WHICH AIMS AT THAT WHICH WILL BEST CONDITION THE COUNTRY TO ANY SITUATION ARISING FROM A SHORTAGE OF PETROLEUM. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS COUNTRY WOULD FOLLOW SUCH A POLICY WHICH IT DEEMS BEST REGARDLESS OF ANY THREATS FROM ANY QUARTER. HE ADDED THAT AMERICA IS NOT A COUNTRY TO BEND TO THREATS. UNQUOTE.

5. THE PAPER REMARKS QUOTE KENNETH RUSH WAS ASKED ABOUT THE HOSTILE FEELINGS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES THAT

SPREAD AMONG SEVERAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF
SUPPORT BY WASHINGTON FOR ISRAEL. THE UNDERSECRETARY
ANSWERED THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO CHANGE OUR PRINCIPLES
OR OUR RULES BECAUSE OF THE FEELINGS SHOWN AGAINST US.
AT ANY RATE OUR ATTITUDE IS NOT RIGID. THE AIM OF
AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS TO ESTABLISH A
PEACE. WE HOPE THAT WE HAVE FRIENDS FROM ALL NATIONS
AND WE HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF ARAB FRIENDS. THE UNDER-
SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN WAS NOT TO TAKE CERTAIN DECISIONS
BUT TO ENABLE THE AMBASSADORS AND HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS
THAT CONCERNED THEM. AMERICA DOES NOT DESIRE THE SO-
CALLED TERRORISM TO INTERFERE WITH REGULAR DIPLOMATIC
ACTION AND CONSIDERS ANY THREATS OF TERRORISM AS DANGEROUS
AND THE COUNTRY WILL FACE THESE BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS.
THE AMERICANS HAD DISCUSSED WITH BOTH THE RUSSIANS AND
THE CHINESE THE SECURITY OF THE ARAB GULF. UNQUOTE.

6. NO OTHER JIDDA NEWSPAPERS CARRIED STORY.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS DISSEMINATING ACCURATE VERSION OF
UNDERSECRETARY'S REMARKS (REFTEL) TO LOCAL MEDIA AND TO ACTING
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAS' UD. TO LATTER WE WILL
INDICATE OUR BELIEF THAT SUCH DISTORTED REPORTS DO
NOT HELP TO PROMOTE SAUDI- US RELATIONS NOR CAUSE OF AREA
COOPERATION.

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